

## GOSSIP FROM GOTHAM

Legislature Empowers the City to  
Build Another Tunnel.

THE SLOANE-BELMONT WEDDING

Tax Board Decides to Exempt  
William Waldorf Astor.

TROUBLE OVER DR. BRIGGS

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, May 1, 1899.

The state legislature in its closing hours at Albany brought joy to the citizens of Brooklyn by the passage of the Atlantic tunnel bill. The bill is really in the interest of a corporation composed of stockholders of the Long Island railroad. William H. Baldwin, Jr., president of that corporation, and also a member of the Atlantic tunnel commission, says: "The bill will now have to go to the mayor for his approval and will then have to be signed by the governor. We are ready to begin the construction as soon as the municipal assembly gives its authority. We have had our plans fully perfected for two years. The tunnel will cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000, and will require about two and a half years to build."

Both the North and East rivers will therefore be tunneled within the next few years. The sale of the Hudson river tunnel property was announced to the public next Tuesday, but it is now learned that it has been postponed indefinitely, and it is asserted that English capital will finish the tunnel.

Gossip Concerning Mrs. Perry Belmont

Now that the former Mrs. Henry T. Sloane has become Mrs. Perry Belmont the query is going the rounds of clubs and drawing rooms. Will she be rehabilitated socially? The general verdict seems to be that she will. The business and political influence of Perry Belmont, it is thought, will be sufficient to accomplish this. It is well known that Perry Belmont strenuously objected to the marriage of his brother, Oliver H. P. Belmont, to Mrs. Wm. K. Vanderbilt. It is recalled that he gave his long-continued friendship for the various members of the Vanderbilt family as his reasons for not resuming friendly relations with his sister-in-law. The circumstances of his own courtship and marriage are identical, though the former Mrs. Henry Sloane's connection with the Vanderbilt family is more remote. Henry T. Sloane's brother having married a Miss Vanderbilt. It will be nearly four months before the social question is really put to the test at Newport. Mr. Belmont's marriage will mean while pass some time abroad. Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry were among those who extended invitations to Mrs. Henry T. Sloane last winter. They are going to Europe next Saturday and may there set the fashion of entertaining Mrs. Belmont. Mr. Belmont has renewed his lease of the 5th avenue house for another year. His Newport establishment, which came to him from his parents, he has been gradually improving for years. By the time Mr. and Mrs. Perry Belmont reach this side, late in August, society will have pretty well settled the matter of Mrs. Belmont's standing. Mrs. Belmont is one of the society people who are very much averse to squabbles, and in Mrs. Astor and Mrs. Gerry Mrs. Perry Belmont will have two powerful social allies.

Speaking of Newport, the finishing touch to the program for the season has been given by the completion of the essential details of the third annual Newport horse show. The show, which is to be one of the most important events of the season, has been set for September 4, 5 and 6. The exhibitions are to be held in the grounds of the Newport Casino.

Mr. Astor Escapes Taxes.

Because of advice received from the corporation counsel by the tax department it is probable that William Waldorf Astor will not have to pay any tax on his personal property for 1898 and 1899. The amount that was involved was about \$400,000. Mr. Astor sent from London to President Feltner of the tax commission a declaration that he was a resident of London, and therefore should not be assessed for personal property in this country. He admitted for years that his personal property was worth \$200,000. Mr. Feltner insisted that the personal appearance of Mr. Astor came to this city recently he went before the tax commission and swore off his personal assessment. Still, the board would give no decision. It was stated that a special private investigation was necessary, and such investigation the corporation counsel for an opinion, and he decided that Mr. Astor should be exempted. The tax board has not acted in the case yet, but probably will do so in a few days. Mr. Astor's personal tax for 1898 and 1899 is estimated to be about \$40,000, and for 1899 it is estimated that the figure would be not less than \$50,000.

Trouble Over Dr. Briggs.

One of the most embarrassing questions that has troubled the Episcopal Church in America for many years has arisen over the proposed ordination of the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs as a priest in that church. Dr. Briggs, who became famous through being tried for heresy by the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church, left that communion and took orders in the Episcopal Church a year ago. He is to be ordained as a priest of the Episcopal Church by Bishop Potter some time in the early part of next month. It was the intention of Bishop Potter to ordain Dr. Briggs in St. Paul's Church, in Westchester, on Sunday, May 14, but this brought forth a storm of protest from the rector and wealthy parishioners of St. Peter's. The Rev. Dr. Frank M. Cleveland, rector of the church, wrote an open letter to Bishop Potter questioning him to withdraw the ordination and protesting against the reception of Dr. Briggs into the Episcopal Church at all. His stand is upheld not only by his own parishioners, but by prominent Episcopalians throughout the country. In accordance with Dr. Cleveland's request, Bishop Potter has withdrawn his plan to ordain Dr. Briggs in St. Peter's. It is practically assured, however, that Dr. Briggs will be ordained, although he has no hope where the ceremony will take place. The Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington has offered the use of Grace Church for Dr. Briggs' ordination, but that offer has been declined.

Home of Sailors.

Rear Admiral J. W. Philip is at the head of the international committee of the Naval Young Men's Christian Association, which is planning to build a home or club for jack tars when out on liberty in the vicinity of the navy yard and which will cost about \$100,000. A good deal of this amount has already been subscribed, and during last week the committee was notified that just as soon as the \$100,000 is in hand a donation of \$50,000 would be given by a friend. One condition of the promised gift is that the name of the person offering it be kept a secret. The nucleus of the home or club was started two months ago. The temporary building was formally opened on March 1. The house is within a short distance of the navy yard and is now in charge of Chaplain R. E. Steele, U. S. N., who is also secretary of the international committee. During the two months the house has been open to the public, and 2,138 sailors and marines had availed themselves of the privileges of the home.

The tablet which the Lady Washington

Colonial Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled today, at No. 1 Cherry street, marks the site of the first presidential home of George Washington. This site, now in the shadow of the arches of the Brooklyn bridge, was at the junction of Cherry and Pearl streets, on Franklin square, formerly known as "Cherry Hill." The mansion was erected about 1770 by Walter Franklin, one of the richest merchants of his time. Upon his death it became the property of Samuel Osgood, through his marriage with the widow Franklin. When President-elect Washington came to New York, the building was selected as his residence. Washington arrived in this city April 23, 1789, one week before his inauguration, and was escorted to the mansion by the governor, state and

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Celebration by Oriental Council, Royal Arcanum.

The twentieth anniversary of Oriental Council, No. 312, of the Royal Arcanum, was celebrated last night, a meeting for that purpose being held in Masonic Temple. Mr. W. H. Smith presided. Mr. Thomas G. Haney, one of eight living charter members, gave an interesting historical sketch of the organization and some of its members.

Others taking part in the evening's entertainment were Prof. Mundell, Mrs. Costello, Miss Gertrude Webster, Mrs. Heinicke, Miss Maud Webster, Mrs. Davis, Prof. Phillips, Miss Speidell, Miss Grace Norman and Mrs. Hazard, accompanist.

CASH OR CREDIT.

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## House &amp; Herrmann's Wonder Week

—When enterprise plays havoc with prices all over the store. A host of matchless opportunities that provident people will be quick to see and appreciate. Worth prices are forgotten, bargain prices reign supreme. Come and see the display and wonder at the low prices.

We Are Always Ready to Arrange Easy Terms of Payment With You. Without Raising the Price or Charging You Interest.



## Straw Mattings.

We do not exaggerate when we say that without any exception we carry the largest line of patterns in China and Japan Mattings to be found in this city. Our stock is all in, and we offer you new, fresh goods that will give far better wear than those that have been carried over from last season.

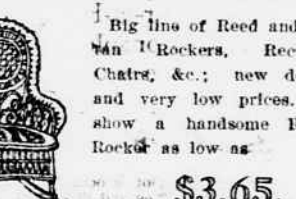
Fancy Matting, by the roll only. \$4.50  
Fancy Seamless Matting, roll only. \$6.00  
Fine Fancy Matting, extra heavy, per roll, laid. \$8.00  
Extra Heavy Matting, good value, laid, per yard, for. 30c.  
Heaviest 100-pound China Matting, laid, per yard. 40c.



## Gas Ranges.

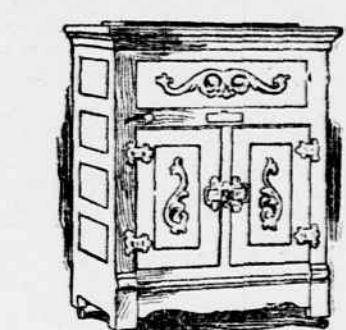
Big line of Gas Ranges, all sizes, gas stoves, from the simple burner hot plate to the big Gas Ranges large enough for a heating house. We guarantee the goods and know the prices are right. No coal, no ashes, no dirt, but cleanliness and comfort for those who use a Gas Range in hot weather.

Be sure and see our line before you buy.



## Big line of Reed and Rat-

Man Rockers, Reception Chairs, etc.; new designs and very low prices. We show a handsome Rattan Rocker as low as \$3.65.



## Refrigerators and Ice Chests.

The line we carry is the best made. Thoroughly selected ash lumber is used, finished in antique. Locks and hinges are solid bronze; galvanized iron shelves used throughout, with charcoal "scenting," which forms the best insulation known. Automatic, airtight locks. Extra heavy lids, which cannot warp. Self-cleaning, automatic drip, easily cleanable. Swinging baseboard. Everything about them is thorough, and what long experience has taught to be the best for the purpose. Needless to say, they are very economical in the use of ice. A large variety of styles. Prices start as low as \$4.49.

A Fine Bell Carriage, with 6 ft. solid

paraloid. Our regular \$40 set, for only \$32.00

This beautifully finished Chamber Suite, solid oak, exquisitely carved, with large French bevel pattern plate mirror; size 20x24 inches; swelled tops; and lower commode. Our regular \$40 set, for only \$32.00

This high-grade Piano-polished Solid Oak Chamber Suite, with oval French beveled plate mirror, double-door commode, shaped tops, handsomely carved headboard and glass frame. A straight \$32.00 suite for \$28.00

This 5-piece Parlor Suite, mahogany-finished frames, covered in good quality Amer-

ican damask; frames well made and upholstered in dust-class shape. We offer this suite for the remarkably low price of \$16.00

Choice pattern 5-piece Parlor Suite, mahogany-finished frames, covered in good quality silk tapestry. Would be a suite at \$30. Our price \$22.00 is only

Best assortment of Sideboards to be found in this city. All styles, all finishes. We show about 75 separate and distinct patterns, and prices start at \$10.00.

Golden Oak 4-foot Roll-top Office Desk, two banks, dust and drawers; plenty of pigeonholes, 10 drawers divided, and a big bargain at \$20.00.

Handsome Oak Dining Chair, solid oak, cane seat, high back. Excellently made and finished. Price, \$1.00.

This elegant Gondola Couch, 29 inches wide, 6 ft. 8 in. long, covered in handsome velvets—has 5 rows tufting and is fringed to the floor. This is our regular \$16.50 Couch. We will sell tailor-made and buttoned 25 of them for \$12.50 each.

The out-of-door season is here, and in order to commence it in good shape we offer a Fine Large Swing for only \$5.00.

A Handsome Reed Carriage, \$3.50 with parasol. A Fine Bell Carriage, with 6 ft. solid paraloid. Our regular \$40 set, for only \$32.00

(All our Carriages have the new brake.) Beautiful weather is close at hand, and your selection can never be made this season at a better time than the present.

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## HOUSE &amp; HERRMANN, 901-903 SEVENTH STREET, Cor. of I (Bye) Street.

OUR NEW CREDIT WAY. | OUR NEW CREDIT WAY.

## A Burst of Bargains.

The condition of the bargains here has reached the overflowing mark. We'll open the flood gates and let out every possible amount. The extreme seasonableness of each article, coupled with the extra qualities and extra low markings, doesn't need much persuasion to bring you here. Carefully read each of these items and figure how much you can save on your needs. Credit in unrestricted quantities at your own terms.